(d) European Commission *vide* Commission Regulation (EC) No. 1580/2007 dated 21.12.2007 has approved checks on conformity procedures of India for fresh fruits and vegetables. Agricultural Marketing Adviser has been notified as Official Authority and Directorate of Marketing and Inspection as Inspection Body (earlier it was Commission Regulation (EU) No. 761/2003 dated 30.04.2003 which has since been repealed.)

(e) Import of fresh fruits and vegetables is regulated under the Destructive Insects and Pests Act 1914 and Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) Order, 2003 issued there under. The purpose and intent of this Act is to prevent the introduction of any insect, fungus or other pest, which is or may be destructive to crops. As per the provision of PQ Order, 2003, the import of plant and plant material into the country is permitted based on the Pest Risk Analysis to conclude the phytosanitary conditions for its safe import. The exporting country is required to inspect and test, as required, the consignment to ensure that the consignment is free from specified pests and meets all the phytosanitary requirements/ conditions prescribed under the Plant Quarantine Order and incorporate this information on the phytosanitary certificate issued by the authorized officers of exporting country, which accompanies the consignment. As such inspection of shipment by the exporting country before export is a must.

Signature campaign by farmers for mercy killing

†3677. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that more than five thousand farmers of Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh who are reeling under the spate of drought for the last three years, have started a signature campaign for giving permission for mercy killing;

(b) whether Government has received the request letter of these farmers of Chhatarpur;

(c) if so the Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government to help these farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (d) While the Government of Madhya Pradesh declared drought in parts of the State during 2007-08 and recently for the deficit rainfall during 2008-09, there is no information from the State Government about declaration of drought on account of deficit rainfall during the current South West Monsoon.

No Memorandum signed by the farmers of Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh regarding permission for mercy killing has so far been received.

Proposal for development of Bhadeli-Jagalala fisheries harbour in Gujarat

3678. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.